

DAILY REPORT

Asia & Pacific

Vol IV No 073

16 April 1987

JAPAN

| | |
|--|-----|
| Leaders Discuss U.S. Economic Dispute, Urge Action | C 1 |
| Tamura Urges U.S. Restraint | C 1 |
| EC Request for GATT Panel on Chips Accepted | C 1 |
| New 'Comprehensive' Economic Package Drafted | C 2 |
| LDP Panel on Development | C 2 |
| Sumita Cites Dissatisfaction With Low Dollar Rate | C 3 |
| Miyazawa on 'Adverse Effect' | C 4 |
| Nakasone Comments on Committee's Passage of Budget | C 4 |
| Kanamaru Says Government May Postpone Sales Tax | C 6 |

NORTH KOREA

| | |
|--|-----|
| Daily Special Article on Reunification | D 1 |
|--|-----|

THAILAND

| | |
|---|-----|
| Sitthi To Visit Malaysia, Indonesia 27, 28 April [BANGKOK POST 15 Apr] | J 1 |
| Columnist Links U.S. Envoy's Absence, Hmong Issue [MATICHON 15 Apr] | J 2 |
| Troops Recapture 2 'Strategic Hills' From SRV [THE NATION 16 Apr] | J 3 |
| Supreme Command Reports on Border Situation | J 4 |
| Chawalit Stresses Need for Democracy, 'Revolution' [BANGKOK POST 16 Apr] | J 4 |
| Clarifies Army Involvement [THE NATION 16 Apr] | J 5 |
| Briefs: Technical Cooperation With Japan | J 6 |

VIETNAM

| | |
|---|-----|
| Foreign Ministry Rejects PRC Claim on Islands | K 1 |
| NHAN DAN Greets Conferment of Order to Kim Il-song [15 Apr] | K 1 |
| Nguyen Co Thach Attends 15 Apr Hanoi Get-Together | K 2 |
| National Assembly Election Preparations Continue | K 2 |
| Localities Prepare | K 2 |
| Signal Corps Prepares | K 3 |
| Preparations Inspected [NHAN DAN 6 Apr] | K 4 |
| TAP CHI CONG SAN Comment | K 5 |
| Bac Thai Meeting | K 5 |
| Preparations in Quang Ninh | K 5 |
| Kien Hai District Prepares | K 6 |
| Trang Tien Subward Prepares | K 7 |
| Preparations Completed | K 7 |
| Four Misbehaving Security Combatants Dismissed | K 8 |

PHILIPPINES

| | |
|--|-----|
| Ramos, Ileto Downplay Coup Reports as 'Rumors' | P 1 |
| More on Ramos Comments [THE MANILA CHRONICLE 15 Apr] | P 1 |
| PCHR Favors Formation of Unarmed Vigilante Groups [BUSINESS DAY 14 Apr] | P 3 |
| Troops Kill 13 NPA Guerrillas in Clashes | P 4 |
| MNLF Establishes Training Camps in Zamboanga [MANILA BULLETIN 14 Apr] | P 4 |
| Misuari Discusses Current Peace Talks, Autonomy [Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA] | P 5 |
| More on Autonomy | P 7 |
| Chief Negotiator on Talks | P 7 |
| Officials Urge Government To Enforce Nuclear Ban [BUSINESS DAY 7 Apr] | P 7 |
| Philippines Requests Renegotiations of Foreign Debt [AFP] | P 9 |

LEADERS DISCUSS U.S. ECONOMIC DISPUTE, URGE ACTION

OW160325 Tokyo KYODO in English 0258 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO -- Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari and his predecessor Shintaro Abe Thursday agreed that Japan must take some substantial action to overcome current economic disputes with the United States.

Abe, who currently heads the Liberal-Democratic Party's daily decision-making body, the Executive Council, is scheduled to leave for the United States Sunday as a special envoy of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Both men agreed that Japan must take concrete steps to expand domestic demand, increase imports, promote contributions to the international community and also to settle such specific problems as the semiconductor dispute, the officials said.

Kuranari, who talked with Abe over breakfast at a Foreign Ministry guest house, asked him to extend his best efforts to alleviate American dissatisfaction with Japan's huge trade surplus, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Abe will make the visit through April 25 to pave the way for Nakasone's official visit to Washington April 29-May 5.

Tamura Urges U.S. Restraint

OW151139 Tokyo KYODO in English 1136 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO -- Hajime Tamura, minister of international trade and industry, called on the United States to refrain from imposing sanctions against Japan over a semiconductor trade dispute. Tamura made the appeal in a meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Mike Mansfield at the ministry.

Mansfield told Tamura it would be difficult for the United States to withdraw retaliatory tariffs on Japanese imports.

He said U.S. President Ronald Reagan is scheduled to announce details of the planned sanctions Friday.

Tamura said the Japanese government would bring the case before General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade discussions.

Mansfield promised to tell U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter to prepare his side of the dispute before coming to Tokyo Sunday.

Details of the U.S. sanctions will be decided by the Economic Policy Council at its meeting in Washington Wednesday, according to Mansfield.

EC REQUEST FOR GATT PANEL ON CHIPS ACCEPTED

OW151037 Tokyo KYODO in English 1031 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO -- Japan will accept a European Community (EC) request to set up a third party panel under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to resolve EC claims that it suffered damages resulting from controlled higher export prices of microchips under the Japan-U.S. microchip agreement, a senior Foreign Minister official said Wednesday.

Japan will announce the acceptance at a GATT council meeting which opened in Geneva Wednesday.

Japan, however, accepted the EC offer on the condition of U.S. participation in all panel discussions because they were a party to the accord.

The Japan-U.S. microchip pact, concluded last September, says that Japan must monitor export prices of semiconductors to the U.S. and third markets to prevent dumping at below-cost prices.

NEW 'COMPREHENSIVE' ECONOMIC PACKAGE DRAFTED

OW151113 Tokyo KYODO in English 1109 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO -- A comprehensive economy-stimulating package drafted by the government and the ruling liberal democratic party features promotion of government procurement and official development aid, sources said Wednesday.

The sources said the draft will be given the finishing touches before formal approval by the government Friday.

The package will signal the shift of Japan's economic policy from one designed to accomplish financial reconstruction to one that expands fiscal spending.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone hopes the package will satisfy the United States and help ease bilateral trade friction, the sources said.

The program will give priority to spending for public works, projects to revitalize local economies and construction of housing, they said.

It will also incorporate emergency imports under government procurement and increase the government's aid to developing nations, the sources said.

The projected procurement will include imports of supercomputers from the U.S. for use by government agencies, the sources said.

Government and party officials are also considering compiling a large-scale supplementary budget totaling some 5 trillion yen.

They plan to issue national bonds and release stock in the privatized Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., as sources of short-term funds.

The sources said former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe will formally present government plans to import supercomputers from the U.S. when he visits Washington later this month.

Abe, now an executive officer of the ruling party, is scheduled to visit the U.S. next week to pave the way for a trip by Nakasone, starting April 29.

LDP Panel on Development

OW160847 Tokyo KYODO in English 0840 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO -- The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) decided Thursday to accelerate a seven-year, 40 billion dollar official development assistance (ODA) program by two years, party officials said.

They said the decision to complete the ODA program in 1990 instead of 1992 is part of the LDP policy to ease trade friction with Japan's trading partners.

The ruling party's special panel on international economic affairs also decided to launch a program to send about 1,000 engineers to developing countries to assist their economic development programs.

The panel, chaired by former International Trade and Industry Minister Masumi Esaki, pledged the LDP's efforts to ensure the participation of foreign firms in the second phase of the 1 trillion yen Kansai International Airport project, according to party officials.

They said the governing party also decided to request the government of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to buy supercomputers from abroad to help narrow Japan's ballooning trade surplus.

Shintaro Abe, LDP general council chairman, and Nakasone will explain their party's decisions to U.S. leaders during their upcoming U.S. visits.

Party officials said, however, the LDP panel failed to make decisions on increased imports of agricultural produce, foreign firms' participation in the Japanese auto telephone market and a reduction in chocolate tariffs.

Sumita Cites Dissatisfaction With Low Dollar Rate

OW150939 Tokyo KYODO in English 0926 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO -- Satoshi Sumita, governor of the Bank of Japan, said Wednesday major industrialized nations have agreed to increase fund reserves for use in market interventions to support the value of the dollar.

Sumita told a regular press conference that some of the Group of Seven (G-7) countries and other nations have acted to increase and swap stocks of foreign currency reserves in order to provide yen funds to purchase the dollar on foreign exchange markets.

Sumita said major advanced nations agreed to coordinate policies and intervene in support of the dollar at a series of international meetings, including a meeting in Washington April 8 of finance ministers and central bankers from the G-7 -- the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada.

Sumita returned to Tokyo Wednesday after attending a Bank for International Settlements (BIS) meeting in Switzerland and talks in the U.S.

Sumita said he is not satisfied with the current yen-dollar rate. The dollar nosedived to a record low in the 140 yen range in Tokyo Wednesday as it did on the London and New York markets Tuesday.

Sumita said while there are no new ideas to stabilize foreign exchange rates, each advanced nation must show its determination to support the dollar.

He said U.S. authorities do not want a further decline in the dollar because it would harm the U.S. as well as the world economy.

Sumita said Japan already has a swap agreement with the U.S. to provide necessary funds for market interventions and the agreement "may be reinforced upon necessity."

Sumita said the U.S. Federal Board has shown a firm commitment to make coordinated market interventions in support of the dollar.

Touching on rising interest rates in the U.S. and falling rates in Japan, Sumita said his Central Bank does not plan to initiate any action on its part to further widen the interest rate gap, a statement taken to mean no additional cut in the official discount rate.

He said U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker did not make any proposal on Japan's monetary policies when they met in Washington last week.

Sumita refrained from elaborating upon the contents of his talks with Volcker but said he explained that Japan's credit condition has been fully eased, offering another hint that Japan will not change the discount rate.

Japan cut the key lending rate to a postwar low of 2.5 percent per annum in February, the fifth time since the beginning of last year, in order to prop up its economy.

Sumita also said Japan's low requirements on the reserve capital level of commercial banks were mentioned at the series of international meetings.

The U.S. and Britain have argued that reserve capital requirements of Japanese banks are too low, which benefits their international competitiveness.

— Miyazawa on 'Adverse Effect'

OW160459 Tokyo KYODO in English 0452 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO -- Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa Thursday expressed a serious concern over the adverse effect the persistent rising value of the yen is having on Japan's business activities and employment.

Speaking at the beginning of a two-day meeting of chiefs of the Finance Ministry's regional bureaus, Miyazawa said the government is doing its best to alleviate the effect as much as possible.

A recently adopted provisional budget, for instance, sets aside two-sevenths of total fiscal 1987 public works appropriations for spending during the 50-day period covered by the stopgap budget, he said.

Miyazawa instructed the bureau chiefs to step up their efforts to win the people's understanding of the tax reform plan, which includes the introduction of the controversial 5 percent sales tax.

Following Miyazawa's speech, the bureau chiefs reported the economic situation in their areas. They said the unabated appreciation of the yen is having a serious effect on smaller enterprises and export-oriented industries.

NAKASONE COMMENTS ON COMMITTEE'S PASSAGE OF BUDGET

OW150715 Tokyo KYODO in English 0645 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO -- The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Wednesday steamrolled the fiscal 1987 budget through the lower house Budget Committee amid violent resistance from the opposition camp.

Opposition members of the lower house committee rushed to the committee podium as LDP Budget Committee Chairman Shigetami Sunada declared the session open shortly after 2 p.m.

Within minutes, Sunada declared passage of the 54,101 billion yen budget following a show of hands by the LDP members of the committee.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone called the move unavoidable while the opposition camp vowed to torpedo it in the full house through filibustering.

"It was unavoidable because we need to protect the livelihood of the people and pass the budget," Nakasone told reporters as he emerged from the lower house Budget Committee.

Meanwhile, four major opposition parties which have formed an alliance against the LDP over the budget issue, have pledged to carry on the fight in the full lower house.

In a decision announced shortly after the Budget Committee action, spokesmen for the Japan Socialist Party, the Komeito, Democratic Socialist Party and United Social Democratic Federation said they plan to block a vote in the lower house by sending a stream of speakers to the podium.

The move, they said, is aimed at blocking lower house passage of the budget before Nakasone leaves for Washington later this month.

The opposition parties said they plan to send 110 speakers to the lower house to file a string of no-confidence motions against the government.

"This will take at least five nights and six days, and it is possible to make it 10 nights," a source at the JSP said.

Political sources said the opposition also plans to petition house speaker Kanzaburo Hara to rescind the lower house budget decision.

If Hara does not intervene, as political analysts forecast, the budget is expected to be passed by the full house, which is under solid LDP control.

Under constitutional provisions, the budget will automatically take effect a month later, whether or not the upper house acts on it.

The LDP decision to steamroll the budget for the first time in six years marks the latest twist in an escalating confrontation between the ruling party and the opposition camp over the controversial sales-tax plan.

The opposition has pressed the government to withdraw the tax, asserting that it violates a campaign pledge Nakasone made during his election campaign for Diet elections last July.

The proposed sales tax and the budget got intertwined as revenues from the proposed tax was written into the fiscal 1987 budget.

Political sources said the LDP decided to ram through the budget because it does not want to extend the 50-day provisional budget which runs out on May 20.

Also, the LDP leadership has said the party wants the budget enacted by the lower house before Nakasone leaves for Washington on April 29 for a five-day official visit to the United States.

The government was forced to introduce the provisional budget at the end of March as a result of the standoff between the LDP and the opposition camp over the sales-tax proposal.

The 5 percent sales tax was blamed for a major setback the LDP suffered in the unified local elections last Sunday.

KANEMARU SAYS GOVERNMENT MAY POSTPONE SALES TAX

OW160527 Tokyo KYODO in English 0522 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO -- Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru indicated Thursday the government may have to give up efforts to seek enactment of a controversial 5 percent sales tax during the current session of the Diet.

An influential figure both in government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Kanemaru said political parties should deal with the European-style value added tax issue with prudence.

If necessary, he said, the ruling and opposition parties should spend six months or even a year in order to reach agreement through negotiations. Kanemaru made the remarks in an informal gathering with reporters assigned to the prime minister's office.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's Liberal Democratic Party rammed the 54.1 trillion budget for fiscal 1987 through the budget committee of the House of Representatives Wednesday amid shouting and roaring from opposition party members.

The 71-year-old deputy premier defended the LDP's action, saying the budget has to get Diet approval as soon as possible because it is very closely connected with the Japanese people's lives.

Kanemaru said the Conservative Party's strong-arm action in steamrolling the budget through the committee was a "shock treatment" designed to bring opposition parties to the negotiating table.

He said one way to seek a breakthrough in the current ruling-opposition face-off is to leave the sales tax legislation for discretion of lower house speaker Kanzaburo Hara. Kanemaru said Hara can decide what to do with the bill, adding that he believes the speaker will make a "fair judgment."

Nakasone's party suffered a major setback in last Sunday's local assembly elections. Political analysts attributed the conservative poor showing to the proposed sales tax. The government wants to implement the sales tax on January 1 next year in exchange for corporate and personal income tax cuts.

Noting Kanemaru's remarks that the governmental and opposition parties should devote as much as a full year to the discussion of the sales tax, political pundits said he probably meant the issue ought to be left for Nakasone's successor to tackle.

Nakasone's extended one year term as LDP president ends in October. Since the post carries with it the premiership, he will also have to step down as prime minister.

Asked to comment on Kanemaru's remarks, Nakasone said a number of people, including the party secretary general, chief cabinet secretary and finance minister, are studying ways to deal with the issue. He said he does not know whether the Kanemaru statement will lead to the shelving or even withdrawal of the sales tax.

DAILY SPECIAL ARTICLE ON REUNIFICATION

SK150500 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2123 GMT 12 Apr 87

[NODONG SINMUN 13 April special article: "The Respected Leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the Great Lodestar for National Reunification"]

[Text] Reunifying the divided nation is the greatest national aspiration of all the Korean people and the supreme national task which should not be delayed any longer. Embracing the pains of division our people are suffering in his own bosom from the first day of division of the nation and people caused by the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists, the respected leader Comrade Kil Il-song illuminated the future of national reunification with the bright light of the chuche idea while leading the revolution and construction in the northern while leading the revolution and construction in the northern half. He vigorously inspired 11 patriotic forces of the nation to implement this sacred cause.

Thanks to the immortal chuche idea and wise leadership of the great leader, our people could vigorously advance the path toward reunification while overcoming difficulties laid on the path of reunification and crushing the two Koreas plot of the splittists at home and abroad.

1. The respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the sun of the nation and the great lodestar for national reunification who brightly illuminated the path toward national reunification by creating unique ideas and theories on national reunification and by putting forward outstanding lines and policies.

The complex circumstances created in our country due to the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea after national liberation and the important missions assigned to our people urgently demanded the correct lines and strategic and tactical policies that can firmly ensure national reunification. The important issues that controlled the reunification cause and the destiny of the nation were brilliantly resolved only by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who has uncommon wisdom and leadership and who gained abundant experiences in struggle.

Regarding national reunification as the greatest national mission in accomplishing the chuche cause, the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song elucidated unique ideas and theories on the issue of reunification and outstanding strategic and tactical policies, thus opening a straightway to realize this cause.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song clearly advanced the essence of the issue of national reunification. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The issue of Korea's reunification is the issue of completely achieving the sovereignty of the Korean people by ending the domination and interference by outside forces and of achieving the national unity by eliminating distrust and confrontation between the North and South.

The circumstances in which outside aggressors militarily occupied a part of the nation and different social and political systems exist in the North and South made the Korean people's cause of national reunification difficult and complex from the very beginning. The issue of reunifying our country is related to external factors of the nation on one hand. Thus it is the issue of realizing nationwide sovereignty by ending the domination and interference by outside forces. Sovereignty, which is the life of the nation and people, can be completely guaranteed only under circumstances in which security in territory and national reunification are achieved. If parts of our territory and nation are infringed upon by outside imperialists, one can never think of complete sovereignty of the nation.

Therefore, the issue of reunification in our country is the issue concerning anti-imperialist national liberation to restore the lost territories and people and to realize the complete independence of the nation. It is an issue of expelling the aggression and interference by outside forces and of restoring the rights as an independent nation.

Another aspect in the issue of national reunification is related to the internal issue of the nation. Thus, it is the issue of achieving national unity by eliminating distrust and confrontation between the North and South. For our people, who historically have lived in the unified state as a homogeneous people, the division of the nation and the split of the people have become an unbearable national ordeal and pain.

Therefore, the issue of achieving the national unity is to completely realize the prestige of a unified nation and an independent state and is a vital demand constituting essential the cause of national reunification.

With the elucidation of the essence of national reunification in our country by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, a firm ideological and theoretical foundation on which the strategic and tactical policies was laid to solve the issue of reunification, with correct views and position toward the cause of reunification.

The issue which has basic significance in successfully pushing ahead with the cause of national reunification which accompanies the arduous and complex struggle is to correctly organize and strengthen the reunification forces. In particular, broadly realizing the powerful reunification forces under the circumstances in which the forces hindering reunification have achieved their unity is an important issue in achieving the cause of reunification.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has comprehensively embodied the essence of the issue of reunification and the basic demand in solving this issue, vigorously accelerating socialist construction in the northern half of the Republic, and actively supported the South Korean people's movement for democracy. He also put forward the basic line to strengthen unity with the international revolutionary forces. The line of strengthening the three major forces for national reunification elucidated by the great leader assumes as its basic element realizing the main force for national reunification in such a way as to firmly organize the reunification forces in two places of the divided fatherland and at the same time, preparing the international revolutionary forces.

The master of national reunification is the Korean people, and no one can accomplish our people's cause of reunification on our behalf. Whether or not the nation's independent forces comprising the socialist forces in the northern half and the democratic forces in South Korea are strengthened is the basic issue related to success in the cause of national reunification.

Our people's struggle to restore the territory and people that were taken away by outside imperialists and to completely establish the nation's sovereignty is developing in close relation with the anti-imperialist and anti-U.S. struggle of the world peoples. Thus, expanding the international revolutionary forces and strengthening militant unity with them in addition to strengthening the nation's independent forces of our people are the essential demand in achieving the cause of national reunification.

The basic line for national reunification advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a unique line which embodied the precious experiences obtained in the course of organizing and leading the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle under the banner of the chuche idea and which is based on comprehensive analysis of the concrete conditions in our divided nation.

It is an active and chuche-oriented line which enables the North and South to achieve the cause of reunification with unified strength of the entire nation by strengthening the nation's independent reunification forces.

Thanks to this basic line, our people can continuously and persistently push ahead with the cause of national reunification amid a broad range of support by the international revolutionary forces by crushing the domestic and foreign splitists who oppose reunification and by relying on our own strong independent forces in the struggle for national reunification. What is important in successfully pushing ahead with the cause of national reunification is to maintain the correct orientation and methods for this cause. What position and attitude one assumes toward the cause of national reunification and in what method one resolves it are the important issues related to the future of reunification and the destiny of the nation.

Based on a scientific understanding of the essence, the characteristic nature, and the future of the reunification issue, the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the great ideological theoretician and the genius of revolution, put forward a basic policy to achieve national reunification without interference of any outside force by the Korean people themselves independently and peacefully based on democratic principles, thus giving a most correct answer to this urgent question. The basic policy for national reunification advanced by the great leader is a just policy which enables the Korean people to safeguard their right as the masters and to fulfill their responsibility and role as masters in resolving the reunification issue. This policy is a unique one which showed a path for us to resolve the issue of national reunification peacefully and in the national interest without causing destruction of the nation's land and the sacrifice of the people.

With the basic policy for national reunification and with the struggle of our party and people to implement this policy, various deceptive theories for reunification put forward by the U.S. imperialists and their stooges and their splitist maneuvers were completely smashed each time, revealing their aggressive, nation-selling and treacherous nature.

Thanks to the justness and great vitality of the basic policy for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland, the people's zeal for reunification was unprecedentedly enhanced in our country in the 1970's and a new situation which realized the contact and dialogue between the North and the South was created. This new situation demanded a new national salvation program which could serve as the basis for dialogue and negotiations and which could open a broad way to reunification.

Reflecting such an urgent demand in the development of the situation, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forward the three principles for national reunification which embodied the basic policy for national reunification in accordance with the new historic conditions.

The three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity are the basic principles for national reunification that our party and the government of the republic consistently maintained and are the common principles of the nation for reunification that reflected the will and desire of all the people and that were declared at home and abroad after the North and the South agreed upon them. These principles are the programmatic guidelines which our people firmly adhere to in the struggle for the reunification of the nation and people no matter how the situation may change in the future.

As we had the basic line, the basic policy and the basic principles for national reunification, our people could have powerful theoretical and practical weapons for national reunification and are pioneering the future of reunification with initiative even under difficult and complex circumstances hindering our advance.

2. The respected Comrade Kim Il-song is the great leader who had not only unfolded the path to reunification by putting forward the most correct lines and policies for national reunification but also is brilliantly leading the struggle to achieve reunification with outstanding and refined leadership. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: From the first day of our nation's division into the North and the South, we persistently struggled to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the nation by putting forward various reasonable methods.

Firmly and consistently maintaining the basic lines and policies for national reunification put forward by himself, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song advanced active and reasonable methods and means which reflected the development of the situation each time. Thus, he led our people's cause for national reunification at the forefront.

What we should do for the complete reunification and independence of the nation, under the circumstances in which the nation and people were divided into North and South because of the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea after national liberation, was the imminent and urgent task laid before our people. As early as this date, the great leader, keenly realizing the aggressive aims of the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea and the danger of the nation's division to be caused therefrom, inspired all the Korean people to struggle to establish an independent, democratic unified government and anti-U.S. national salvation while personally organizing and leading the struggle to realize the revolutionary democratic base in the northern half after putting forward the line to organize such a base. The line to organize the revolutionary democratic base put forward by the great leader is an outstanding strategic line which enables our people to successfully smash the aggressive maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland by organizing powerful chuche-oriented revolutionary forces in the northern half.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, clearly foreseeing the path along which the Korean people should advance and the future of the nation based on his scientific and outstanding power of insight, overcame the difficult situation with initiative and led all the patriotic forces, who loved the nation and aspired for national reunification, along the path toward national reunification with boundless magnanimity and generosity and without asking about their past.

The joint conference of representatives of political parties and public organizations in North and South Korea, convened in April 1948 at the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's initiative during the grave period in which the maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges for the nation's division became undisguised, was a pan-national meeting for political negotiations which realized the unity between the patriotic and democratic forces of the North and South under the banner of national salvation. The representatives from all walks of life, including those of both rightist and leftist political parties and public organizations in South Korea, as well as nationalists who pursued anticomunism, gathered together in this joint conference and discussed national salvation measures, transcending differences in their political views, religions, factions and ideals.

The North-South joint conference was a historic meeting of national unity which vigorously demonstrated the lofty authority of the great leader, who enjoys absolute respect and trust by all the people, the justness of the patriotic national salvation programs advanced by him, and our people's desire to uphold the leader as the center of national unity. The joint conference frustrated the separate election commotion of the U.S. imperialists and gave a fatal blow to their splittist maneuvers by firmly uniting the patriotic forces of the North and South and inspiring them to the pan-national anti-U.S. national salvation struggle. It marked a new advance in our people's struggle to form a unified democratic government.

If the latter part of the 1940's was to be called the period during which the path to reunification was pioneered by overcoming the crisis of the nation's division with national unified strength and by resolving the question of the sovereignty of a unified state, the 1950's can be called the period during which a path for peaceful reunification was opened by expelling the U.S. imperialists' armed invasion and attaining great victory in the fatherland liberation war. The 1960's was the period during which a reliable guarantee was being made while making preparations to greet a great event of national reunification.

Reflecting the basic position which he consistently maintained in resolving the reunification question and the demand of development in the rapidly changing situation at home and abroad, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forward a broad policy for North-South negotiations in his famous speech of 6 August 1971. Thus, he opened a new aspect for national reunification by destroying the frozen state which had long persisted between the North and South.

Thanks to the new policy for North-South negotiations put forward by the great leader and to our party's struggle to implement this policy, the South Korean rulers who closed their doors until that time and persistently refused any contacts finally came to the table of dialogue and, as a result, the historic North-South joint statement was published.

The North-South joint statement, which takes the three principles for national reunification put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as its basic content, enjoyed enthusiastic support from all the Korean people in the North and South as soon as it was published. This statement made the entire land of South Korea overflow with deep emotion and joy.

Reporting on the scenes of streets in Seoul, South Korean publications wrote that the portrait of the great leader posted on the billboard of a newspaper company made all the people stand still, and that all fellow countrymen in the South were overflowing with joy, noting that the sacred Mt. Paektu were waving its hand.

The shout "Turn power to General Kim Il-song!" resounded among the masses who gathered in the lecture meeting organized by the puppet clique to explain the North-South joint statement, and acclamations of "Long live General Kim Il-song!" loudly echoed from the streets.

This eloquently showed how deeply our party's policy for the independent and peaceful reunification, which was put forward by the great leader and which has been consistently maintained by him, impressed and moved the South Korean people.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who opened the road of North-South talks with his sagacious command, has hastened the South Korean puppets' isolation at home and abroad by fully laying bare the delaying strategy and double-face tactics that the South Korean puppets pursue behind the dialogue, by taking the initiative all the time and while uniting into a single stream all the patriotic forces in the North and South aspiring for reunification.

The South Korean puppets, who were terrorized by the surging fighting spirit of the entire Korean people in the North and South aspiring for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, openly violated the agreements reflected in the North-South joint statement, clung to a scheme for national division, and even went to the point where they openly declared the fabrication of two Koreas by obtaining admission into the United Nations as a policy in a so-called special statement.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who always foresees trends in the course of development through his extraordinary resourcefulness and scientific insight and eliminates obstacles laid on the road of reunification by his active efforts, dealt a severe blow to the South Korean puppets' policy of two Koreas by presenting the famous five-point policy for national reunification at such a serious period of time of choosing between reunification and division and thus opened a phase capable of ceaselessly and vigorously promoting the cause of national reunification.

No sooner had the five-point policy for national reunification been made public than foreign news agencies unanimously called it a final heavy counterblow to the South Korean puppets' declaration of division, reporting that Seoul's 23 June special declaration had been rendered useless within 4 hours of its announcement by the declaration of reunification announced in Pyongyang, and the hard-hit Chongwadae laughed out of the wrong side of its face.

Indeed, the course of our people's struggle of the seventies for national reunification was a proud course in which the great leader and our party checked and frustrated the U.S. imperialists at every step and the South Korean puppets' scheme of division and war by rallying all the patriotic forces under the banner of reunification, and then put them on the defensive from which it was impossible to extricate themselves.

To open a decisive phase for national reunification, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who blazed the path leading to reunification by tearing down the wall of division, put forward in early 1980's a new proposal for reunifying the country by founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo [DCRK] through the establishment of a unified national government on the condition that the North and South recognize and tolerate each other's ideas and social systems and establish a government in which the two sides are represented on an equal footing and under which they exercises regional autonomy respectively with equal rights and duties.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's proposal for founding the DCRK stated at the Sixth WPK Congress in October 1980 proceeded from the noble ideas designed to bring an end to division by outside forces and achieve the unified development of the country and people in its goal of founding a confederal republic. It is a completely new and unique proposal for national salvation and is based on a single people and two autonomous regions under two different systems in its form of founding the confederal republic.

The uniqueness of this proposal lies in the fact that it has illuminated a new path to national reunification for the first time by clearly setting forth the foundation of a confederal state with two systems within a single ethnic people. This proposal, which reflects the demands and aspirations of the entire population, is the most correct and just patriotic program for national reunification that gives first priority to national issues from start to finish and takes into consideration the principle interests of our people and those of the two regions of the North and South and the two systems. It is also a most reasonable and just peace program which reflects the international environment our country finds itself and the desires of all peace-loving people in the world.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught that to have the fatherland reunified by founding the DCRK, all the Korean compatriots in the North and south and abroad should firmly unite in a single great national reunification front under the banner of national reunification, regardless of differences in their thoughts, ideologies, factions, and political views, and that they should vigorously stage a pan-national struggle for reunification and national salvation in South Korea and abroad.

The great leader is now uniting all the patriotic forces at home and abroad around the banner of national reunification under the noble ideology of great national unity and vigorously encouraging them to the sacred cause of founding a new, reunified, and independent fatherland, the DCRK.

An important point concerning the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's leadership over the cause of national reunification is that he, after presenting reasonable methods and the correct strategy and tactics designed to provide preconditions for independent and peaceful reunification based on the situation that prevails in our country and on the historic summary of the movement for national reunification, has wisely led the struggle to this end.

To bring an end to division and achieve reunification, it is imperative to uproot the source of division and eliminate the obstacles and difficulties laid before reunification. The great leader's proposal to bring an end to the fascist colonial rule and turn South Korea into a society governed by independence and democracy and his various other reasonable proposals to eliminate the danger of war and tension that prevails on the Korean peninsula and guarantee lasting peace there are are mighty keys and a treasured sword capable of realizing the fundamental demands that should be resolved before anything else in settling issues that concern reunification and producing new breakthroughs for national reunification by removing all the snags and obstacles to reunification.

To eliminate the danger of war and create the preconditions for the independent and peaceful reunification of our country, it is imperative to turn the unstable situation into lasting peace and remove the acute political and military confrontation between the North and South.

Proceeding from this, we already put forward an epochal proposal at the outset of 1984 for holding tripartite talks in which we, the United States, and South Korea participate, replacing the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement in the talks, and then adopting a declaration of nonaggression between the North and South.

Following this, we put forward the proposal for North-South parliamentary talks, the proposal for talks between military authorities, and proposals for turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone, and have been making serious efforts to have them realized.

In particular, during his historic policy speech delivered at the first session of the Eighth SPA late last year, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forward a new important proposal for discussing measures designed to solve the acute political and military confrontation between the North and South by holding high-level North-South political and military talks based on his analysis of the prevailing situation as a whole.

Out of consideration toward keeping the nation from embarking on an ominous path by easing the political confrontation and military tension between the North and South at all costs, we are now exerting every possible sincere effort to arrange the high-level talks capable of practically resolving issues that concern the relaxation of tension.

That we put forward a proposal to hold North-South prime ministerial talks irrespective of the form of talks by accommodating the South's assertions, under circumstances in which the South side had not accepted our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks, and then put forward a new proposal to realize the high-level North-South political and military talks, was a clear expression of our patriotic stand and sincere effort to ease tension, guarantee peace, and create a new turning point for peaceful reunification through talks and negotiations.

Indeed, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's wise leadership over our people's struggle for independent and peaceful reunification shines as a proud course over which he put forward correct policies and methods for reunification and then vigorously stirred the people in the country in the struggle toward this end, thereby developing the reunification movement.

Reflected in the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who has led the Korean people's cause of national reunification to victories, are the unlimited warm love and patriotic and noble will of the father leader, who is bent on holding the entire population in the bosom of a reunified fatherland that enables the South Korean people, who are forced to suffer from all description of misfortune and misery under the darkness of fascist colonial rule, to extricate themselves from the yoke of subjugation and oppression.

Thanks to the outstanding and refined leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who devotes everything, including his life, to the freedom and happiness of the people and to the complete independence of the nation and the unified development of the people and who stands at the head of our party and our people, we could victoriously advance along the road of struggle by turning the trend favoring division into the reason for reunification. Thus, our people have opened a new history for reunification and national salvation.

3. Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau Presidium and secretary of the party Central Committee, has indicated: We should reunify the fatherland at any cost, no matter what difficult situation may lie along the path of revolution, and should accomplish the chuche revolutionary cause generation after generation.

The struggle for national reunification faced numerous difficulties and underwent temporary turns and twists. However, thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's wise leadership and our party's energetic activities, a great advance was registered in our struggle. The past 40 years during which our party and people traversed under the great leader's leadership, marked unprecedented exploits in the nation's history and accelerated the turning of division into reunification.

Through the struggle to implement the basic lines for national reunification put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, a firm foundation was laid for the bright future of national reunification. Today the northern half of the republic has been consolidated as a mighty stronghold for national reunification. With vigorous acceleration of socialist construction, the nation's political and economic might has been strengthened and, with consolidation of the state and social system, our nation has turned into a powerful socialist country with dignity, authority, independence, self-reliance, and self-defense.

All the people are firmly armed with the immortal chuche idea and vigorously advancing to accomplish the chuche cause in firm unity around the party and the leader. When the three revolutions being waged by our people — ideological, technological and cultural — are successfully carried out and when brilliant successes are effected in the struggle to accomplish the Third 7-year plan, the revolutionary bases in the northern half of the republic will be more firmly consolidated and a decisive advance will be registered in our people's struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the nation.

The South Korean people's movement for independence and democracy is developing rapidly. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's chuche idea and the lines for the independent and peaceful reunification of the nation, the embodiment of his idea, serve as the source of the hope, courage, and confidence of people from all walks of life in South Korea and as a lighthouse that illuminates the future of reunification.

The South Korean people organized numerous mass organizations, even amid a fierce violent gale of fascism, and persistently carried out the just anti-U.S. and antifascist struggle while organizing and awakening themselves. Over the course of such struggle, the South Korean people's national salvation movement has been continuously carried out while crushing vicious fascist frenzy and finally developed into democratic resistance in Pusan and Masan and into the Kwangju popular uprising. Their movement drove the splittists at home and abroad into a corner and shook their colonial fascist rule from its root.

The South Korean people learned a lesson and awakened from the blood shed in Kwangju and their struggle has been deepened and developed into the anti-U.S. struggle for independence to expel the U.S. imperialist aggressors and put an end to their colonial rule. The struggle for the independence and democracy of society and for national reunification in South Korea is developing on a new stage while including a broader range of people. Voices that call for the national policy of reunification and reunification through collaboration with communists, as opposed to the anticomunist policy, resounded even from the South Korean National Assembly.

The struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland is being fiercely carried out by all the compatriots overseas, including 700,000 Korean residents in Japan. A national salvation struggle has been actively carried out among the overseas compatriots to open a way of life for the nation through the anti-U.S. struggle for independence. Voices that appeal to realize a position for a broad range of dialogue for reunification and to concentrate strength on accomplishing the reunification cause by all patriotic forces at home and abroad resounded from the overseas compatriots.

Thanks to our party's foreign policy advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and to his energetic external activities, the international circumstances for national reunification are turning favorably to our people's reunification cause. The friendly ties with socialist countries, the nonaligned nations, and the revolutionary people of the world have been unprecedentedly consolidated. Our party's policy for independent reunification enjoys absolute support and welcome from numerous nations and the people of the world.

Various international meetings, including the UN General Assembly meetings many times over and the summit talks of the nonaligned countries, have supported our policy for the independent reunification of the fatherland and adopted just resolutions and declarations that call for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea. National committees in various countries, continental committees, and regional committees were organized throughout the world to support our people's cause for national reunification. Thus, they are actively carrying out their work.

The question of Korea's reunification has today become an issue of worldwide interest and supporting and encouraging our people's cause for national reunification has become a trend the cannot be blocked.

The lofty authority of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, whom our people greeted and upheld for the first time in several thousand years of history, is the banner of our people's unity and a symbol of certain victory. By upholding the respected Comrade Kim Il-song as the great leader and advancing under the banner of the chuche idea, our people could greet a rewarding new era. We tenaciously forged ahead with the spirit of struggle, confidently foreseeing the future of national reunification.

With firm conviction that when they advance along the path indicated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song they can achieve the sacred cause of national reunification without fail, all the people in the North and the South and the overseas compatriots revere and adore the respected leader as the sun of the nation and the lodestar of national reunification.

Because of the U.S. imperialists' maneuvers of aggression and war and the two Koreas plot of the splittists at home and abroad, enormous difficulties and barriers still lie along the path to national reunification. The decisive guarantee for expediting the reunification cause by overcoming various obstacles to reunification is to more thoroughly implement the basic lines for national reunification.

It is our party's firm position and will to achieve national reunification in our generation without fail, not allowing our homogeneous people to split into two. Today the WPK is illuminated as an everlasting chuche-type revolutionary and has firmly built an organizational and ideological foundation on which it can accomplish the chuche cause generation after generation. Firmly establishing its leadership system, the WPK has been strengthened and developed into an iron-clad party with lofty leadership authority and indomitable strength capable of leading the cause of national reunification along the single path of victory by overcoming any storm and difficulty.

The greatness, indomitable nature and refined leadership of our party are the basic factors that enable us to accomplish the cause of national reunification to the end. Never before has there been such a time when the future of reunification is so bright and the unified fatherland as firmly ensured as today when our glorious party leads our people's cause of national reunification with an iron will and untiring passion.

Through their practical experience, the Korean people firmly believed that only the WPK is the guide that can thoroughly defend and represent the interests of the fatherland and people and that only under the party's brilliant guidance can the historic cause of national reunification be accomplished and the unified development and prosperity of the nation be realized.

Today all the party members and workers have totally entrusted their destinies to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the glorious party center. The patriotic people in South Korea and the conscientious compatriots overseas endlessly trust and follow the great leader and our party as the lodestar of national reunification.

No strength can block the vigorous advance of our nation and our people, who are striving to build an independent and prosperous unified Korea free from the subjugation, repression, and suffering of division, in firm unity around the party Central Committee headed by the great Comrade Kim Il-song.

As long as the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, a peerless patriot, a legendary hero, and the sun of the nation, leads our people's cause of national reunification, and as long as there is refined guidance of the glorious party center, the Korean people will achieve the historic cause of national reunification without fail by overcoming any trial or difficulty.

SITTHI TO VISIT MALAYSIA, INDONESIA 27, 28 APRIL

BK150214 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila will visit ASEAN countries to forge a common stand on regional political issues before his trip to the Soviet Union next month.

Before visiting Malaysia and Indonesia on April 27 and 28, ACM [Air Chief Marshal] will meet his Singaporean counterpart, Suppiah Dhanabalan, who arrives in Bangkok on April 20 for the 43rd annual ESCAP conference.

Ministry permanent secretary M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi will also leave for the Philippines and Brunei next Wednesday, ACM Sitthi said.

The talks with ASEAN leaders will include the Kampuchean conflict, ACM Sitthi said. He is expected to put forward ASEAN'S common views to the Soviets during his next month's visit. Thailand and Malaysia hope to sign an agreement to set up a joint commission on economic cooperation on trade and fishing when ACM Sitthi visits that country on April 27.

But Malaysian authorities have asked to study the draft agreement first, he said, adding that it will be submitted to the Cabinet next week for approval.

In Indonesia, ACM Sitthi will hold talks with Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja. He said Mr Kusumaatmaja, who is due to visit Vietnam soon, will stop over in Bangkok after his talks with the Vietnamese leaders.

ACM Sitthi said the Soviet proposal to declare Southeast Asia a nuclear free zone could not materialise as long as Soviet naval bases at Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay and elsewhere in the Pacific and U.S. bases in the Philippines were maintained.

"There exist no effective procedures to verify ships in this region," he said. "However, if the Kampuchean conflict was resolved, chances for such a zone would be brighter."

He said the Government was looking for new fishing grounds in waters off India, Pakistan, Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and in the South Pacific to help the fishermen.

The Government paid about 10 million baht last year to secure the release of more than 700 fishermen arrested by Vietnam, Burma and other countries. "Fishermen should keep out of disputed waters," he said.

ACM Sitthi quoted Burmese Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha, who visited Bangkok last week, as saying his country will release another 151 Thai fishermen soon.

Although the Thai and Malaysian governments had agreed to joint fishing ventures, Malaysian investors oposed them, he said. He said the recent surrender to Thai authorities by members of the outlawed Communist Party of Malaya [CPM] could improve Thai border security. Malaysia has announced it will not pardon CPM members.

On the upcoming by-election Phya Thai and Dusit districts, ACM Sitthi, who is the leader of the Social Action Party [SAP], said his party will not vie for the seat, formerly held by the Democrat Party, because it has been agreed among the coalition parties not to compete against one another in by-elections.

However, the coalition partners would decide on the question of the candidacy if the Democrat Party did not field a contestant, he said.

"We do not want conflicts, within the coalition," he said. "It will make no difference if SAP added another seat to its current total of 51."

COLUMNIST LINKS U.S. ENVOY'S ABSENCE, HMONG ISSUE

BK151101 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 15 Apr 87 p 7

[Column by Matchimakon: "Diplomacy Requires Tact"]

[Text] Disregarding the diplomatic etiquette that an ambassador is recalled when a country is upset with the host, the United States has sent its ambassador to Thailand to investigate a spy case in the Soviet Union and assigned a lower-ranking diplomat to be in charge until the ambassador returns from his mission, that is, when the problem of the discontent is solved.

America must really be upset over Thailand's repatriation of the Hmong if things reach the stage of the ambassador being recalled or sent on a temporary mission. America must realize by now that Thailand has had a loose policy regarding refugees from other countries. Several decades ago we saw Hmong, Akha, Lahu, and Yao tribesmen fleeing suppression by Burmese forces and arriving in Tak, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Phrae, and Nan provinces to join their kin in Thailand. We did not push them out and now have about a million hilltribe people in our country.

The U.S. Government said that it needed the American ambassador to Thailand to take part in an investigation of a spy case involving U.S. Marines in the Soviet Union. This seems to be a case of tactfully recalling its ambassador. In the view of the man in the street, an investigation into the case involving U.S. Marines should not require the services of an expert in Russian. Anyway, now we know about American tact in recalling its ambassador over diplomatic displeasure with Thailand on the grounds that the ambassador is needed for a temporary mission in another country.

The human rights upheld by the U.S. Government must mean that a country of first asylum should not push back refugees to their country of origin since that would expose them to possible execution. The Americans love the Hmong because they worked together in fighting and gathering intelligence in the Plain of Jars and other parts of Indochina. It is therefore impossible for the Americans to see Thailand repatriate the Hmong despite the fact that Thailand itself is a great friend and close ally of long involvement with the United States.

As for Thailand, the action it has taken is necessary. Thailand has taken a large number of refugees as a country of first asylum, while no other countries, not even the United States itself, have seriously helped resettle these people. Thailand had to solve its own problem by pushing those refugees back, and it could not afford to think whether or not they would face execution in their home country. There have been more arrivals of refugees both by land and by sea, and the influx does not seem to end. After unsuccessfully trying other methods, Thailand was forced to take the drastic action of repatriation. Yet there may be another option that the Foreign Ministry of the government of General Prem Tinsulanon may have forgotten -- negotiations with those countries not to execute their own people who have been repatriated.

Has the person in charge of our foreign affairs, formerly the secretary general of the National Security Council, and now the foreign minister, negotiated with Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia on the basis that Thailand can no longer take refugees fleeing from those countries and will have no other choice but to repatriate them to their country of origin after providing them with food and temporary shelter?

This would be a correct course for us to follow in accordance with international law. Having negotiated, in the spirit of tact and on the basis of international law, with the three countries, other countries would not be able to accuse us of violating human rights. No person and country would be able to accuse us of adopting an aggressive foreign policy, or protest against us -- tactfully or otherwise.

TROOPS RECAPTURE 2 'STRATEGIC HILLS' FROM SRV

BK160145 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Apr 87 p 3

[Text] Government troops, backed by artillery barrage and air strikes, on Tuesday recaptured two strategic hills on the Thai-Kampuchean border in Ubon Ratchathani from Vietnamese intruders whose casualties were reported to be 30 killed and 100 wounded in the battle which has dragged on for three months, the army spokesman said yesterday.

Maj Gen Narudon Detpradiyut told a press conference that soldiers and rangers recaptured Hills 376 and 500 in the rugged terrain in Nam Yun District of the northeastern province early back into Kampuchea.

He said a company-size Vietnamese troop still remained on Hill 408, located about 1.5 kilometre from the tense border close to Chong Bok Pass. Chong Bok, adjoining Thailand, Kampuchea and Laos, is an infiltration route into the Kampuchean interior.

The spokesman said three Thai troops were killed while about 10 others wounded over the weekend when ground forces, supported by air strikes and artillery, launched major assaults on Hill 496, Hill 477 and Hill 382.

He said the Thai troops will soon be despatched to comb the strategic hills in search of remnants of the Vietnamese soldiers. The Vietnamese are believed to have suffered heavy casualties.

He said he expected the Vietnamese troops to pull out from Hill 408 which has a strategic access to Chong Bok Pass soon. He said Hanoi's soldiers, positioned on the hill, could possibly receive logistics supply from the Vietnamese forces on the Kampuchean side of the frontier.

Narudon said the intruding Vietnamese units had been despatched from the seventh, eighth and ninth battalions from the 733rd infantry regiment, based along the Kampuchean-Thai border.

The Thai border troops have besieged Hill 408, cutting off the Vietnamese intruders, he said, put up stiff resistance by firing about 900-1,000 rounds of artillery and mortar shells as well as anti-aircraft SAM-7 missiles at the Thai troops advancing to the hilltop and the air force jet fighter-bombers during the weekend.

Two villagers were killed while three others injured by stray shells, he said. A total of 44 houses in Ban Paet Um and Ban Non Sung Villages have been damaged, he added.

SUPREME COMMAND REPORTS ON BORDER SITUATION

BK151022 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 14 Apr 87

[All figures as heard]

[Text] The Supreme Command Information Office reports on the situation along the border with Cambodia during the week ending 2 April as follows:

During the period under review, large Vietnamese reinforcements were delivered in the area opposite Chan Daeng border pass of Ban Kruat District of Buriram Province where clashes between the Vietnamese troops and CGDK forces frequently took place. Shells fired by Vietnamese troops on several occasions landed inside Thai territory at Kho village in Nam Yun District of Ubon Ratchathani Province.

The total number of Cambodian people who have fled the fighting inside Cambodia to take refuge along the Thai-Cambodian border was recorded at 274,672; 62,545 are being detained in Sisaket and Surin Provinces; 174,836 in Prachin Buri Province; 143,914 at Site 2 in Ta Phraya District; 30,922 at Khlong Hat Subdistrict; and 37,291 in Chanthaburi and Trat Provinces.

CHAWALIT STRESSES NEED FOR DEMOCRACY, 'REVOLUTION'

BK160215 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Apr 87 p 1,3

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief General Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday stressed the need for a revolution in Thailand to achieve a genuine democratic system.

He also said the present economic development plans needed to be revolutionised because they tended to widen the gap between the rich and the poor.

In an unprecedented testimony before the House Parliamentary Affairs Committee, Gen Chawalit clarified his thoughts about democracy and revolution.

On democracy, he said the Army was genuinely and fully supportive of a Thai-style democratic system with the King as head of state which had served the interests of the majority. "A democratic system which does not respond to the needs of the majority is useless," said Gen Chawalit.

The Army chief then pointed to the huge gap between the rich and the poor.

"We are pleased with our export performance, import reduction and decrease in trade deficit as if we had achieved the status of a developed country. Yet on the other side, the number of poor people is increasing and their income is getting smaller," he said.

He warned that if the ever-widening income disparity went unchecked "there is no way for us to become a genuine democracy as we wish."

Gen Chawalit said the democratic system he envisaged would be one in which the middle class comprised the majority with small numbers of the rich and the poor.

To build up a democratic system, he said, political parties as well as all government mechanisms including the military, "must join hands and walk ahead together." In so doing, he said, the Government had to get rid of bureaucratic red-tape first.

The Army chief said he had stated more than once that the military had to cooperate in building a democratic system "but unfortunately our good intention has always been misunderstood by narrow-minded people."

"The military is like you (parliamentarians), thinks as you do. The military does not seek to destroy democracy," said Gen Chawalit.

He added that the only way to build a democratic system in Thailand was through a revolution. He said that in order to instill democracy among the people, the concept of dictatorship would have to be eradicated.

A revolution, he explained, could be carried out without difficulty "if we all stand up together and announce together that we will undertake a revolution." Amending outdated laws, said Gen Chawalit, was a form of revolution.

Explaining the Army's position towards the outlawed Communist Party of Thailand, [CPT], Gen Chawalit said that since the CPT had not abandoned its armed struggle to overthrow the legitimate Government, he saw no need to repeal the Anti-Communist Act. Scrapping the law would only benefit the communists, he said.

Regarding the parliamentary system, the general said he fully supported a parliamentary system under which the powers were centralised with the MPs. But he noted that Parliament had to improve its image by doing away with the practice of vote-buying or money dumping during elections.

However, Gen Chawalit said he felt the political parties' performance had gradually improved as their number got smaller and smaller.

The Army chief said he had no worry about Parliament, MPs nor the military. "I am concerned about those behind the scene who are the sources of all the confusion and chaos."

Regarding the Opposition's attack on the Government, Gen Chawalit said it was a normal occurrence which should not be treated as a big issue.

Touching on the Army's role to relieve drought and to build green belt areas in the Northeast, Gen Chawalit maintained that the role was only supplementary and would not interfere with the duties of government agencies concerned.

Clarifies Army Involvement

BK160219 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Apr 87 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday sought to dispel politicians' fears over the growing military involvement in politics by shooting down a proposal to bar MPs from holding Cabinet posts. He also stressed that the anti-communist legislation must remain in force.

The army chief was fielding questions during an unprecedented two-hour closed-door exchange of views with members of a House standing committee during which he apparently tried to pacify apprehension from certain quarters over the restructuring of the Internal Security Operations Command [ISOC] which has been criticized by certain politicians as an attempt to "militarize the political structure." [passage omitted]

During the discussions, Chawalit only vaguely defined his patiwat [revolution] concept as an idea to improve whatever conditions that need to be upgraded.

The committee spokesman [Chaowarin Latthasaksiri, Ratchaburi-Chat Thai] quoted Chawalit as admitting that he had resorted to the term patiwat because he wasn't sure about the correct word to describe his idea. The committee suggested to him that "democratic development" would be a more appropriate term to avoid future misunderstanding.

Chawalit told the MPs that he did not agree with the proposed system to separate the legislative body from the executive branch because, after all, that would be missing the heart of the issue. He was quoted as saying that the crux of the problem is to prevent the parliamentary system from deteriorating into one that would be tantamount to "dictatorship by Parliament."

The army chief said he wanted to put an end to the vote-buying practice which was rampant during the last elections.

In a clear allusion to his patiwat concept, Gen Chawalit said the concept is in fact nothing more than an attempt to improve the quality of political parties to make them genuinely representative of the grassroots needs.

He said he was not really concerned about the Parliament, MPs or the Royal Thai Army in this context. Rather, he said, his main worry was related to those "pulling strings from behind, trying to use us." He did not elaborate.

He said an ideal democratic system in his concept would be one which incorporates the following elements: It must be Thai style with the Monarch at the top; it must serve public interests and it must allow the middle class to become the majority of Thai society. He also sought to clarify his previous statement that ballot casting is not necessarily the main essence of a democratic system and that the more important element would be the realization of the basic principle that the sovereign rights belong to the people.

Commenting on the criticism that the army has been increasingly making its presence felt in politics, Chawalit said the Army had suffered heavy casualties and had been "groping in the dark" for years before it came to the realization that the deployment of forces alone would not destroy the Communist Party of Thailand.

He was quoted as adding: "Finally, the army established the correct line which is summarized in the slogan that communism defeats dictatorship and democracy overcomes communism."

"You may blame the military for spearheading the move toward the establishment of a full-fledged democratic system and I don't find it necessary to defend us in this case because after all the military has always been at the forefront while the people and you have been in the rear. Anyway, let's stop blaming one another. It's time to come to understand each other," Chawalit said. [passage omitted]

BRIEFS

TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH JAPAN -- Thailand and Japan have agreed to expand their technical cooperation for 3 more years starting from 1987. The agreement was reached between the National Research Council and the Japanese Organization for the Promotion of Scientific Progress. As the result of the expanded program, 92 Thai researchers will go to Japan this year to carry out joint research projects with Japanese counterparts, While 71 researchers from Japan will come to Thailand for similar research work. The cooperation is in seven fields, including biotechnology, engineering, marine science, agricultural production, medical science, chemical and natural products, and social science and anthropology. [Excerpts] [Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 11 Apr 87 BK]

FOREIGN MINISTRY REJECTS PRC CLAIM ON ISLANDS

BK161024 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] A regular press conference was held in Hanoi on Thursday by a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry. At the conference, Mr Trinh Xuan Lang, head of the Information and Press Department of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, read a statement of the spokesman of the ministry.

The statement says: On 15 April, the Foreign Ministry of the PRC issued a statement on the so-called China's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa [Paracel and Spratly] Archipelagoes of Vietnam. The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry resolutely rejects this groundless allegation of the Chinese authorities as expounded in the 15 April statement of the Chinese Foreign Ministry. The Vietnamese government once again affirms its sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes.

At the press conference, Mr Trinh Xuan Lang answered many questions raised by Vietnamese and foreign newsmen concerning Vietnam's foreign policy.

NHAN DAN GREETS CONFERMENT OF ORDER TO KIM IL-SONG

BK151215 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Apr 87

[15 April NHAN DAN editorial: "Congratulations to Esteemed Comrade Kim Il-song"]

[Text] The Council of State of our country recently decided to confer the Gold Star Order on Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the DPRK, on the occasion of his 75th birthday. By means of this high distinction, our government and people would like to express their profound sentiments for Comrade Kim Il-song, the Korean people's great leader, a well-known activist of the international communist and workers movement, and a great friend of the Vietnamese people.

Born on 15 April 1912 to a peasant family in the suburbs of Pyongyang, Comrade Kim Il-song participated in revolutionary activities very early in his life -- when he was 14 years old. His revolutionary activities are closely linked to the long process of the Korean people's revolutionary struggle for national independence and liberation. As the founder of the WPK and the DPRK, over the past nearly half a century he has served as head of the party and state and led the Korean people in defeating the brutal war of aggression waged by the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen, successfully building socialism, and stepping up the struggle for peaceful national reunification. On account of his great services to the revolutionary cause of Korea, he has been awarded the titles of Hero and Labor Hero of the DPRK and other high honors of various fraternal socialist states.

The Vietnamese communists and people always bear in mind that Comrade Kim Il-song has contributed to fostering the fraternal friendship and solidarity between the parties, states, and peoples of Korea and Vietnam. We cherish forever the deep impression left by his official friendship visit to our country in 1958. During our people's anti-U.S. war of resistance for national salvation, Comrade Kim Il-song, together with the WPK Central Committee and the Korean government and people, gave our people warm and precious support. He once stressed: The WPK and the Korean people consider the U.S. imperialist aggression against Vietnam as an aggression against themselves and regard the struggle of the Vietnamese people as their own struggle.

Our people will struggle even more resolutely against the common enemy, namely the U.S. imperialists, and will do their utmost to support the Vietnamese people.

By presenting Comrade Kim Il-song with the Gold Star Order, the highest distinction of the SRV state, our party, government, and people show their high appreciation for his great contributions to the Korean people's revolutionary cause and to the consolidation and development of the traditional friendly relations between the two parties, governments, and peoples of Vietnam and Korea.

On this occasion, we solemnly congratulate esteemed Comrade Kim Il-song. We respectfully wish him good health so that, together with the WPK Central Committee, he may lead the Korean people in successfully implementing the resolutions of the sixth WPK congress and score many new and great achievements in the cause of socialist construction and in the struggle for peaceful national reunification.

We express our firm support for the new proposal made by President Kim Il-song at the first session of the eighth Korean National Assembly concerning high-level politico-military talks between the two Koreas. We are convinced that under the leader of the WPK headed by Comrade Kim Il-song, the relations between the parties and peoples of Vietnam and Korea will be ceaselessly consolidated and successfully developed.

NGUYEN CO THACH ATTENDS 15 APR HANOI GET-TOGETHER

BK160300 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] A cordial get-together was hosted by Cambodian Ambassador Tep Henn and Lao Ambassador Bouasi Chaleunsouk in Hanoi on the evening of 15 April on the occasion of the traditional new year festival of the Cambodian and Lao peoples.

Comrade Nguyen Co Thach, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister, and leaders of various departments, sectors, and mass organizations and of the Vietnam-Kampuchea Friendship Association and the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association attended. Also on hand was Comrade Miakotnykh, Soviet charge d'affaires in Vietnam.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION PREPARATIONS CONTINUE

Localities Prepare

BK151535 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The Central Electoral Council has sent various teams to Lam Dong, Phu Khanh, Tien Giang, Hoang Lien Son, Haiphong, Nghia Binh, Hau Giang, Vung Tau-Con Dao, Bac Thai, and Cao Bang to inspect preparations for elections in those localities and to help resolve problems in preparing for the elections. In many provinces and municipalities, higher-echelon steering committees for the elections have intensively inspected and supervised preparatory work carried out by lower echelons, especially at the village, city ward, and township levels.

In Hanoi, between 13 and 16 April, block residents' cells and production units held meetings for voters to discuss the eligibility criteria for candidacy, and study the lists of candidates and their biographies so as to have a basis for casting their ballots.

The various electoral units have begun issuing voter's cards. The inspection teams have once again re-examined voting slips and the voters' namelists, especially at polling sites having transient voters such as hotels and railway and bus terminals. All electoral cell members have been thoroughly trained in electoral procedures so they can guide voters in casting their ballots according to the law. The municipality has stepped up propaganda work by sending out teams consisting of youths and teenagers to launch an electoral publicity campaign.

Meanwhile, electoral units in Nghe Tinh have examined the various electoral documents to ensure that they are in good order.

Song Be Province has provided professional training for more than 2,000 electoral cell leaders.

In Nghia Binh, the organizations in charge of the elections have discussed methods aimed at ensuring accurate vote tabulation and timely reports on the progress and outcome of the elections.

In Vinh City, after meeting with voters and hearing their petitions concerning seven major problems, Comrade Do Muoi personally gave answers to specific questions and promised the voters he would forward their problems to the party Central Committee and the state for settlement.

Comrade Do Muoi urged the voters to develop the right to collective mastery by wisely choosing National Assembly deputies and district and village people's councillors who can meet the requirements of the new situation and tasks and the need for renovation. Administrative bodies at all levels, he said, must truly consider the people as roots, serve their interests, and maintain even closer contact with them so as to fully monitor their opinions; carry out satisfactorily the mottos "the state and the people work together" and "ensure the people's knowledge, discussion, action, and supervision;" promptly resolve socioeconomic policies; strengthen the socialist legal system; and enable the laboring people to truly bring into play their right to collective mastery and satisfactorily carry out all viewpoints and policies of the party and state.

Signal Corps Prepares

BK141533 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Immediately after receiving the General Political Department's directive on the Army's participation in the elections for the eighth National Assembly and district and village people's councils, the political office of the Signal Corps issued a document providing guidance for various units in organizing the implementation of the directive.

By early April, 100 percent of the units of the Signal Corps had set up electoral teams, sent cadres to establish close contact with party and administrative organs in the areas where they were stationed, and reached agreement on the forms and measures to be applied in organizing the elections. All units arranged for their men to study and fully grasp various election documents and to learn about the candidates. Units with new recruits who will vote for the first time in their lives held meetings to answer questions about the electoral law and to clearly define the responsibility of citizens to discharge their obligation in building the highest organs of state power at the central and local level and to voluntarily and seriously abide by the state law.

Some detachments of Nam Lien Group, the 6th Telecommunications Group, and Group 05 arranged for soldiers to participate in carrying out propaganda work to enable the people to clearly realize the significance of the elections for the National Assembly and people's councils. Units such as Factory M-1, Hai Van Group, Factory M-2, and Groups 8 and 9 coordinated with the local authorities, public security services, and Armed Forces to satisfactorily carry out indoctrination work and formulate plans for safeguarding political security and maintaining public order and safety in the areas where the units were stationed and at voting places. To date, nearly all units of the Signal Corps have completed the tasks of announcing the names of voters, distributing voter cards, and posting candidate namelists. They have put up flags, banners, slogans, and posters to disseminate the significance and purposes of the elections among all units.

Preparations Inspected

BK150512 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 6 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] Several provinces and cities have recently intensified their inspection of election preparatory work to ensure good success for the upcoming elections of the National Assembly and the people's councils at the district, village, and corresponding levels.

An inspection team of Ho Chi Minh City has noted that election preparations in precincts and districts — such as in Binh Thanh and others — are being made satisfactorily in accordance with the law and the spirit of achieving renovation in thinking and workstyle. Meanwhile, the city has also resolutely corrected its shortcomings committed in nominating candidates to run for election to the people's councils, especially those committed in Binh Chanh District.

The election steering committees of precincts and districts in Haiphong have intensified their inspection efforts in villages and wards and have promptly corrected shortcomings committed in posting candidate rosters. They have accelerated efforts in receiving and settling the people's complaints about candidate rosters. The Kien An District electoral council has criticized certain party committees and administrations of a number of villages for paying no attention to creating conditions for voters to have a correct conception about, and to volunteer to participate in election preparations (for instance, recommending people to run for the elections).

In Cuu Long, some 60,000 voters have participated in meetings to discuss election preparations. Many districts, villages, and corresponding levels have succeeded in selecting good persons to run for the elections and in detecting and removing from candidate rosters those unqualified for election to the people's councils for their upcoming term of office.

In Hanoi, it is found that in certain areas candidate nomination work remains inflexible and heavily characterized by structural composition as is the case with Co Bi village (Gia Lam District). Some localities, such as Ba Vi District, are reportedly slow in making preparations. This has been promptly detected and tackled by the inspection teams.

At present, election preparations countrywide are entering a new phase. It is a central task during this phase to organize well-prepared meetings between candidates and voters so that the former can seek to understand the aspirations, feelings, and suggestions of the latter about state organs of power and can present their programs of action to be carried out once elected. Many localities have prepared to hold meetings of voters to exchange views on the biographies of candidates in order to select the right candidates when going to the poll.

Some units are reportedly active in examining and answering questions raised by the people about election rights, in settling the people's complaints about the integrity of candidates, and in making necessary preparations for the elections.

TAP CHI CONG SAN Comment

BK141157 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Preparation for the coming general elections to the eighth National Assembly remain a prominent daily topic in the central and local papers in these days.

In its editorial, the TAP CHI CONG SAN -- COMMUNIST REVIEW -- asked for the election of a really capable national assembly. To this effect, the paper continued: The first and foremost thing is to propose candidates really qualified for their job as the people's representatives.

In an article entitled: The Eighth National Assembly and Some Renovations, published in the same review, Chairman of the National Assembly Nguyen Huu Tho wrote: Vietnam was completely liberated 12 years ago. The composition of the forthcoming National Assembly should reflect this reaching change in that period. The whole country is focusing efforts on economic production. Our National Assembly should have deputies with high qualifications. Practical efficiency, he said, will be the ultimate impartial judge.

Bac Thai Meeting

BK160630 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The Seventh National Assembly deputies of Bac Thai Province recently met with voters' representatives to review their work in the past term. A number of candidates for election to the Eighth National Assembly attended the meeting.

The voters' representatives made many suggestions calling on the National Assembly to build a uniform legal system and to promulgate without delay the labor economic laws and the code of criminal procedures.

Concerning the work of the province's National Assembly deputies, the voters asked that the deputies meet more often with their constituents, faithfully report as many legitimate aspirations of the people as possible to the National Assembly, and participate more satisfactorily in supervising law enforcement in the locality.

Preparations in Quang Ninh

BK160512 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Report by (Mai Phuong) on preparations for upcoming National Assembly and people's council elections in Quang Ninh City -- Portions recorded]

[Excerpt] We visited the country's largest coal-mining city [Quang Ninh] while intensive preparations were being made for the election of the National Assembly and the people's councils at the district, village, and corresponding levels.

Along with posting candidate posters and making public the lists of candidates running for the elections, the city election council has settled satisfactorily and promptly all the complaints and denunciations by voters about election rights and about the integrity of certain candidates and of those cadres designated to handle these elections.

We accompanied an inspection team of the Quang Ninh provincial election council on a tour of various election units in the city and a number of mining enterprises. On meeting us, many voters expressed their favor for innovations in the elections as these conform to the motto brought forth in the resolution of the Sixth National CPV Congress, that is, "Regard the people as a base. The people know, the people elect, the people do, and the people supervise." All these have been clearly reflected in every step of these elections.

A coal shaft worker at the Thong Nhut coal mine told us that he had participated in three elections and that it is not until this time that his right to be master has been respected.

At all the election units throughout the city, the number of candidates nominated to run for election are larger than that to be elected -- at least two and even three persons at certain units. Those being nominated have demonstrated their sense of responsibility toward the people. They are fully qualified as representatives for coal miners at the country's highest organ of power as well as at the local institutions.

In front of our radio reporter, voter (Vu Xuan Thuy), a labor hero and cadre of the Coc-6 coal mine said:

[Begin (Vu Xuan Thuy) recording] As a mining worker, on 19 April, I will exercise my voting right with pleasure and enthusiasm. From what I know, this time the elections will be conducted in accordance with the motto in the resolution of the Sixth CPV Congress, namely "The people know, the people discuss, the people do, and the people supervise." Together with my fellow workers of the Coc-6 coal mine, we have discussed and carefully selected our representatives for election to the national and local organs of power. When the day arrives, all we have to do is to pick out their names and drop them into the ballot box. This is the result of our careful consideration. Also in this vein, the majority of us mining workers, wish to devote our energy and minds to joining with those organs of power to be elected in implementing successfully the three major economic programs, two of which have to do with our mining workers, namely the programs for producing consumer goods and export goods. We are producing coal for use by the people and for export. We will strive to carry out these two tasks satisfactorily as we regard this as a duty and an honor for us. [End recording]

[Passage omitted on similar statements by other workers expressing their support for the democratic system as set forth in the resolution of the Sixth CPV Congress]

Kien Hai District Prepares

BK160358 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Candidates for election to the National Assembly and people's councils at two levels in Kien Hai District, Kien Giang Province, have visited 40 of the district's 73 islands to meet with voters.

The voters have made nearly 3,000 suggestions concerning the questions of improving management methods, reorganizing the production of marine products, and the purchasing price policy. More than 1,000 suggestions made by voters on the Nam Du Archipelago and Hon Nghe Island, which are located more than 100 km from the mainland, touched on the problems of caring for the cultural life of the local inhabitants, increasing the number of doctors and teachers, and organizing the newspaper and book distribution network to serve the people. The election guidance committees of the province and various districts have sent cadres to the islands to inspect preparations for election and the setting up of polling stations. The committees have supplied the localities with more oil and gas and mobilized all boats and ships to ferry voters to the polling stations on the election day in a safe and convenient fashion.

Trang Tien Subward Prepares

BK160420 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Trang Tien subward, Hoan Kiem ward, located in the heart of Hanoi, has been evaluated as one of the units which has done a good job of preparing for the National Assembly and people's council elections.

These days, 22 major streets in the ward are decorated with numerous slogans, posters, and banners propagandizing the elections. The ward has compiled a namelist of 4,672 voters including 18 who are going to vote for the first time in their lives. Three local residents have lost their civil rights, and 16 insane people have been deprived of the right to vote, and their cases have been verified and confirmed by Hoan Kiem ward.

Trang Tien subward belongs to the Electoral Unit No 1 of Hanoi where voters will be electing four deputies to the Eighth National Assembly from among six candidates including Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh.

In this election, the subward will also elect 30 deputies to its people's council. The ward's VFF committee has held consultative meetings with various mass organizations to nominate 42 candidates. The average age of these candidates is 47, with the youngest candidate being 23 and the oldest being 68. College and high school graduates account for 27 and 73 percent of the total number of candidates respectively.

Preparations Completed

BK150939 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] To date, all the 40 provinces and municipalities and special zones directly subordinate to the central government have basically completed work in preparation for the elections of the Eighth National Assembly and the people's councils at the district, village, and corresponding levels. All 167 electoral units throughout the country have satisfactorily introduced namelists of National Assembly candidates and have selected 829 qualified persons for election to the 496 seats in the National Assembly.

The number of deputies to be elected remains the same as in the previous National Assembly but the number of candidates has increased by 215. This will create favorable conditions for voters throughout the country to select National Assembly deputies more satisfactorily.

Of the 167 electoral units, 31 will elect two deputies from among four candidates, 110 will elect three deputies from among five candidates, and 26 will elect four deputies from six candidates.

The system of one electoral unit for one province with an amazingly large number of deputies to be elected as in the past, no longer exists.

The reduction of the size of electoral units and of the number of deputies in each electoral unit and the increase in the number of candidates over that of deputies to be elected have made it easy for voters to get to know, as well as to identify and remember, the number of candidates and the number of deputies to be elected in their electoral unit and, at the same time, have created favorable conditions for candidates to meet with voters more extensively than in the past.

To create favorable conditions for voters to elect worthy persons to the National Assembly, while nominating candidates, all electoral units have not lowered the criteria for National Assembly deputies merely for the sake of composition.

In selecting and nominating candidates under the recommendation of various establishments, mass organisations, and sectors, all localities have complied with the regulation concerning investigating the background of these candidates through the opinions aired by voters at their residential quarters or work places. They have also paid greater attention to quickly settling complaints and denunciations against candidates by voters.

Ensuring every citizen's right to vote, all localities have strictly complied with Resolution No. 498 of the Council of State to determine cases involving deprivation of voting rights and to reinstate this right to those who have served out their jail terms or have satisfactorily completed re-education. They have also paid attention to the voting rights of those who, due to their professions such as fishing and communications and transportation, are required to be always on the move, and have worked out safety plans for the election day in various population centers, new economic zones, major border areas, and places where voters will assemble.

After reviewing experience in the first-phase inspection of preparations for the election, all members of the central electoral council continue inspecting various localities to detect and correct shortcomings in the tasks of preparing for and organizing the election on 19 April with the aim of making it a success.

FOUR MISBEHAVING SECURITY COMBATANTS DISMISSED

BK151438 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] In the 1st quarter of this year, the public security force of Ho Chi Minh City's 1st Precinct dismissed from service four combatants and issued warning to another for drunkenness and other acts of misconduct. Earlier, in 1986, the 1st Precinct public security force took disciplinary actions ranging from warning to dismissal against 26 combatants who had seriously violated the force's regulations, with as many as half of those disciplined having repeatedly ignored the ban on alcoholism.

Along with constantly reminding cadres to strictly observe the force's code of discipline, the 1st Precinct public security force has arranged for all of its cadres and combatants to study again the Ministry of Interior's Decision 76 on banning alcoholism within the force.

RAMOS, ILETO DOWNPLAY COUP REPORTS AS 'RUMORS'

HK151013 Hong Kong AFP in English 0947 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Manila, April 15 (AFP) — Philippine Defense Secretary Rafael Ileto and Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos admitted Wednesday that they had received reports over the weekend of an attempted coup. But both men downplayed the reports of a plot to overthrow the government, with Mr Ileto dismissing them as "just rumors."

Manila security chief General Alexander Aguirre had said earlier that about 400 troops, led by non-commissioned officers, had planned to seize two television stations, a radio station and a school for foreign students who would be held hostage to get international attention.

But while Mr Ileto denied there had been a coup attempt, he admitted that "some people had thought about it." "They can plan it but implementing it and making it succeed is almost impossible," he said.

Gen. Ramos refused to confirm or deny that there had been a coup attempt. "Right now (the coup reports) are still at the level of intelligence reports," he said.

Mr Ileto and Gen. Ramos admitted that Gen. Aguirre had mobilized 50 percent of his troops to secure the threatened broadcasting facilities and school but said these were normal precautionary measures in response to the reports.

Military authorities have named two non-commissioned officers as being behind the latest coup attempt. They are believed to have gone underground.

Meanwhile, a Manila daily reported Wednesday that a group of renegade officers loyal to deposed president Ferdinand Marcos — including a Marcos aide who slipped back into the country after fleeing last year — were meeting to discuss ways to recruit more military men in attempts to topple the government.

MALAYA, one of the country's largest selling dailies, quoted unidentified Military Intelligence agents as saying that Major Wyrlo Ver, a close aide of Mr Marcos had returned to the country after fleeing secretly last year and met with a group of fugitive military officers last week. Major Ver is a son of Mr Marcos' chief of staff general Fabian Ver.

Among the officers he met with were Brigadier General Jose Zumel, Colonel Rolando Abadilla and Lieutenant Colonel Reynaldo Cabautan, the daily said. All three are wanted in connection with past coup attempts. Discussed at the meeting were ways to recruit more men to join coup attempts, the agents reportedly said.

More on Ramos Comments

HK151401 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 15 Apr 87 pp 1, 3

[By staff member Manny Mogato]

[Text] Three sergeants were among the leaders of the aborted coup over the weekend the 'CHRONICLE' learned yesterday.

Meanwhile, top military officers, including Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, have continued to deny that there was such a takeover attempt.

Camp Aguinaldo sources, however, said three sergeants -- Master Sergeants Tanny Corpuz and Librado and Technical Sergeant Cruz -- were being hunted for leading the coup attempt.

Corpuz and Librado were former members of the defunct Presidential Security Command under former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian C. Ver. Cruz was assigned in the Marine Corps.

All three have been absent without official leave (AWOL) for the past two months.

Military intelligence sources said the names of these sergeants cropped up after they failed to attack on their first target date, March 14.

The sources said that because the group could not muster enough support from other military and police units, it called off the plan.

The group planned to strike over the weekend but was prevented when National Capital Region Defense Command (NCRDC) officials placed Metro Manila under red alert.

Another military source said the "Tiwarak" ["upside down" group] was identified with the Guardians Foundation Movement, not with the Guardians Brotherhood, another military fraternity, which had earlier been implicated.

The foundation had been linked in the foiled Jan. 27 coup, which included the take-over of GMA-7 broadcast station, the Sangley Air Station in Cavite, the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, and the General Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The coup plot was confirmed Monday by Capital Regional Command (Capcom) Chief Brig. Gen. Alexander Aguirre, and several NCRDC officers.

In Lopez, Quezon, however, Ramos and his intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Antonio Samonte denied that a coup had been aborted over the weekend.

Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo, for his part, said the coup plot was "a month old".

Arroyo, Ramos and Samonte joined President Aquino's visit here for an inspection tour of a road project.

Ramos said intelligence agents merely acted on reports that there could be another unauthorized movement of troops last Saturday.

Upon Capcom's request, a red alert order had been issued involving half of its forces in order to "improve coverage of areas mentioned in the intelligence reports", Ramos said. He added however, that it was "a normal weekend deployment of troops."

Ramos also countered reports that three truck loads of soldiers had been intercepted in Quezon City last Saturday while allegedly on their way to join the coup plotters.

The soldiers had come from Fort Magsaysay, Laur, Nueva Ecija, earlire reports said.

At this, Ramos retorted, "Hindi, wala yun. [No, that is nothing.] All the soldiers were checked and it turned out to be a legitimate troop movement."

For his part, Samonte said of the coup reports: "Huwang kang maniwala diyan." [Do not believe that.] He said Aguirre's confirmation of the coup story was not correct and that people should go by what Maj. Gen. Salvador Mison had said. Mison, vice chief of staff, had denied the coup reports at the same time Aguirre confirmed them.

Like Ramos, Samonte said only some areas, but not all of Metro Manila had been placed on alert status last weekend. The intercepted soldiers were on a legitimate training mission, Samonte, said.

The Guardians are no longer a problem in the military, he remarked. Now, there are "no coup plots to talk about," and reports on coups that keep coming out in newspapers are "just one way of selling the papers," he added.

Meanwhile, Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) senatorial candidate Nicanor Ynigues said yesterday the coup reports were a "fabrication" of the Government "designed to gain the sympathy of the people."

He said that the Government should investigate the reports and determine what charges should be filed against the coup leaders.

PCHR FAVORS FORMATION OF UNARMED VIGILANTE GROUPS

HK141427 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 14 Apr 87 p 20

[Text] The Presidential Committee on Human Rights (PCHR) favors the formation of unarmed citizens vigilante groups to fight communism, a PCHR official said yesterday.

Lawyer Abelardo Aportadera Jr. of the PCHR told newsmen that the committee has submitted to President Aquino its position on such citizens vigilante groups as the Nakasaka.

The PCHR favors the vigilante movements whose members are unarmed and confined within their locality. They should act on a voluntary basis, he added.

This position is PCHR's input in the joint report on the vigilantes being prepared by the Departments of National Defense and Local Government.

Aportadera said the PCHR has an "ongoing dialog with defense and local government officials on the guidelines for citizens' participation in vigilante groups to minimize, if not avoid, human rights violations."

Meanwhile, PCHR chief Jose B.L. Reyes said President Aquino is set to sign an executive order for the formation an independent commission on human rights to implement a provision in the new Constitution. Reyes and other PCHR members met with the President in Malacanang yesterday.

"We have asked the President to organize properly and as fast as possible the constitutional committee on human rights since the new Constitution is already in force," Reyes told newsmen after meeting the President.

Under the Constitution, the commission shall be composed of a chairman and four members who must be natural born citizens. A majority of them shall be lawyers. The term of office and other qualifications and disabilities of the members of the commission will be provided by law.

The new charter also provides that until this commission is constituted, the PCHR, set up by Executive Order No. 8 will continue to exercise its present powers.

Lawyer Abelardo Aportadera Jr., a PCHR member said the new commission on human rights will probe human rights violations committed by both insurgents and government forces.

Pending the organization of a new commission the PCHR will continue its work of documenting human rights violations during the Marcos era, he added.

Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno, who was present during the meeting between the committee and the President told newsmen, that there is a "consensus" to provide the PCHR with the power and responsibility of investigating human rights violations by anybody soldiers or non-soldiers.

TROOPS KILL 13 NPA GUERRILLAS IN CLASHES

HK150251 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] On the intensified anti-insurgency operations, government troops continued to press their initiatives in the field, killing 13 more NPA guerrillas in fighting in Cagayan, Camarines Sur, Davao del Norte and Surigao del Sur. Six of the NPA rebels were killed in (Basing), Lasam in Cagayan last Friday in a 3-hour encounter. Twelve other NPA rebels were wounded but the rebels withdrew, dragging five of their dead companions and the wounded, which is their usual practice. One dead NPA man, with an AK-47 assault rifle at his side, was found by the troops. The other four NPA casualties, including a medical officer, were killed in fighting a group of Samahan [translation unknown] vigilantes in Santa Lucia, New Bataan in Davao del Norte. One NPA man was captured and was identified only as Benjie. Three of the NPA rebels were killed in a clash with government soldiers in Camarines Sur. Three other NPA sparrows were also captured.

MNLF ESTABLISHES TRAINING CAMPS IN ZAMBOANGA

HK141311 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 14 Apr 87 pp 1, 9

[By T.P. Rimando]

[Text] Pagadian City — The Moro National Liberation front (MNLF) has established several training camps in the Zamboanga peninsula in preparation for future offensives, the military reported here yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Ernesto Maderazo, chief of the Army's first Infantry "Tabak" division based here, said two of these training areas are located on Olotanga Island and Labangan Town, both in Zamboanga del Sur, while one is in the mountain town of Siocon in Zamboanga del Norte.

Maderazo said the training camps could have been put up following the indefinite ceasefire agreement reached with the MNLF in the southern Philippines.

In a report to Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, Armed Forces chief of staff, Maderazo said that since the establishment of these training camps, the military has noted an increasing number of armed men in Olotanga, Labangan, and Siocon and their adjacent areas.

He said the military was closely monitoring activities in the rebel camp, adding that the MNLF appeared to be preparing for offensive attacks on areas in Zamboanga peninsula comprising about 3/4 of the autonomous region of western Mindanao.

Military sources have connected the existence of these camps to MNLF chairman Nur Misuari's repeated threat to go to war if the government refuses to give in to his group's demand of total autonomy for the entire Mindanao including Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Palawan.

The MNLF demand reportedly called for the appointment of Misuari as overall government head in the southern Philippines where Christians comprise 90 percent of the population, including the powers to name local officials.

Maderazo said the military is prepared for any MNLF aggressive act.

Only last week, Southern Command Chief Brig. Gen. Cesar Tapia dispatched two Marine battalions to Zamboanga del Sur following MNLF harassments in the coastal towns of Payao, Dimataling, Mabuhay and Labangan.

These harassments were reportedly ceasefire violations by the MNLF.

Meanwhile, the joint MNLF-Government Investigation Panel ended yesterday its one-day probe on the April 6 Payao armed clash which resulted in the killing of one Army soldier and the wounding of four others.

The probe team led by Brig. Gen. (ret) Feliciano Caces flew to the Southcom headquarters in Zamboanga City from Margosatubig Town after a briefing by Maderazo at Camp Dao here.

Maderazo said the investigation team will submit its report directly to President Aquino, to whom Misuari earlier complained that the Payao incident was a ceasefire violation by the military.

MISUARI DISCUSSES CURRENT PEACE TALKS, AUTONOMY

BK150655 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0522 GMT 15 Apr 87

[By Zainoor Sulaiman]

[Text] Manila, April 15 (OANA-BERNAMA) -- The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has threatened to spread the "flames of war" to other areas in the southern island of Mindanao should current peace talks failed, the MANILA CHRONICLE reported Wednesday.

Quoting MNLF chairman Nur Misuari, the report said the Bangsa Moro Army was on "high alert" [words indistinct] "within hours" if there were further "provocative actions" by the military.

"We will give peace a chance. We will not provoke but will fight if attacked," the daily quoted Misauri as saying.

The MNLF has formally protested what it described as an intrusion of the military in its controlled area of Labatan, Zamboanga Del Sur, last week.

A joint government-MNLF team sent to investigate the incident has completed its task and is expected to make public its findings in a day or two.

Over the weekend, Misuari had talked with senior MNLF commanders and members of the MNLF negotiating panel to peace talks with the government of President Corazon Aquino. The MNLF panel is led by Habib Mujahab Hashim.

Misuari did not say for how long the MNLF would take part in the negotiations which began on Feb. 9 if the talks failed to resolve the fundamental issue of autonomy for 23 Mindanao provinces, including Palawan.

But there were two factors that shortened the fuse of the Mindanao tinderbox. The first was the intensifying military activity in Jolo and Zamboanga del Sur. The second was that the MNLF was trying to push for an agreement before the new Congress sits in July.

Under the 1986 Constitution, Congress is given the mandate to enact the organic law governing the creation of autonomous regions in Muslim Mindanao and in the cordilleras in northern Luzon.

The MNLF is concerned that the intervention of Congress would inhibit its goal of forming an autonomous region comprising 23 Mindanao provinces, including Palawan.

This contrasts with a government proposal envisaging an autonomous region of only 10 provinces comprising regions 9 and 12. These two regions comprise the Provinces of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

The impatience and frustrations of the MNLF are growing over the deadlock on the main issue of the territorial delineation of the autonomous regions.

The issue stems from the perception by the MNLF that under the agreement signed by Misuari and the government negotiator, former minister of local government, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., on Jan. 3 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the government had agreed to grant "full autonomy" to the 23 provinces.

This perception is based on the joint statement of the Philippine-MNLF panels which said that the panels "agreed to continue discussion of the proposal for the grant of full autonomy to Mindanao, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Palawan subject to democratic processes."

This statement is elaborated by another joint statement signed by Misuari and Pimentel on Jan. 4 stating that the panels agreed to "create a joint commission which will discuss and draft the mechanism and details of the proposal for the grant of full autonomy to Mindanao, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Palawan subject to democratic processes."

The key words, as the MNLF sees it, are "discuss and draft the mechanism and details of the proposal for the grant of full autonomy."

Implicit in this, argues the MNLF, is that what all that the panels have to discuss are the details, since the concept of full autonomy for the 23 provinces have already been agreed upon. The government has denied it has ceded this point in informal talks with the MNLF.

Misuari, in the interview said there was no point in moving into matters such as the relationship between the central government and the autonomous region unless this fundamental question was settled.

On this issue, and with provocation from the Armed Forces, the MNLF appeared ready to break off and go to war.

Misuari said that "it's time to warn people that if there should be war, its dimensions will not be limited to former areas. I want to prepare the people's mind that the MNLF will spread the flames of war to areas not touched before. Wherever there is an enemy, that is a legitimate target. But we will see to it that people will not be caught in the crossfire."

He also said that if war broke out, "I am going to lead this war." This apparently was in reference to criticism that during most of the fighting in the 1970s, he was abroad carrying out the struggle by lining up support of the Islamic countries.

Northern Mindanao, he said, could be a possible area of expansion of the conflict.

More on Autonomy

HK150303 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] The leader of the Muslim revolt in the southern Philippines reiterated, during a television interview aired yesterday [14 April] that his movement wants autonomy and not independence. Nur Misuari, the leader of the Moro National Liberation Front, told Channel 7 he envisions an autonomous Muslim region in the 23 southern provinces that essentially comprise Mindanao Island. He spoke to the independent state in an interview taped last week at a rebel base on Sulu Island and broadcast last night. Misuari said that in recent peace talks with the government now suspended, they were proposing the creation of an executive office, and also a small cabinet of fifteen ministers and a deputy minister, and also the creation of a regional parliament in Congress and the creation of a regional Supreme Court to implement the law.

Misuari did not say if he offered to compromise on the size of the security force. Asked if the MNLF was receiving funds from abroad, Misuari told interviewer Ricardo Puno: It is natural. How can we survive if we do not get the solidarity of the world community? Asked specifically about the supply of weapons, Misuari said they get this through the courtesy of some smugglers.

Chief Negotiator on Talks

HK150451 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330/GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The Mindanao peace talks are not getting anywhere. MNLF chief negotiator Habib (Mohamad Hashim) said he and government negotiator Emmanuel Pelaez cannot see eye to eye. He said the government's proposal to grant autonomy to only 10 Mindanao provinces is not acceptable. (Hashim) said nothing less than full autonomy for all 23 Mindanao provinces will suit the MNLF. He agreed however to keep the informal talks open. He also warned that the MNLF might bring their struggle to Metro Manila if the peace talks collapse.

[(Hashim) recording indistinct]

OFFICIALS URGE GOVERNMENT TO ENFORCE NUCLEAR BAN

HK071459 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 7 Apr 87 p 19

[Text] Three senatorial candidates led by former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday asked President Aquino to immediately implement a constitutional provision banning all nuclear weapons in the country.

Appearing with Enrile at the weekly Kapihan sa Maynila [Manila coffee shop] were Horacio Morales of Partido ng Bayan [PNB -- People's Party] and Ernesto Herrera of the Lakas ng Bayan. [People's Power] They said the anti-nuclear provision is "self-executory."

Enrile told the Kapihan that President Aquino appears to be in a dilemma as regards the implementation of the anti-nuclear provision. This, she should carry out right away because it does not need any enabling act from Congress.

Enrile, who favors the retention of the U.S. military bases in the country, said President Aquino could not ignore the nuclear ban provision because it is the command of the people.

"The President is duty bound to enforce this provision because it was adopted by the Filipino people during a plebiscite," said Enrile, a senatorial candidate under the banner of the Grand Alliance for Democracy.

Enrile pointed out that the Americans may hesitate to continue using the military facilities in the country if the nuclear ban provision will be implemented. He said the U.S. military bases in the Philippines will be "useless" if the nuclear ban will be enforced. Enrile said the Americans will find it useless to stay here if they cannot have their nuclear-powered vessels and nuclear weapons inside the bases.

Enrile suggested the creation of a bi-partisan council in the Senate to help President Aquino determine the government's correct course of action.

The U.S. military bases agreement will expire in 1991. Negotiations will be conducted early next year for the bases agreement retention or abrogation. One of the main issues is the increase in the payment of rentals for using military facilities in the country. Enrile said the Philippine panel must start its discussion now for it is a long drawn negotiation. He noted that it took the Marcos government three years to negotiate a mere revision of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. bases agreement.

Enrile also asked the Aquino government to adopt an effective monitoring system to check whether American vessels and aircraft entering the Philippine territory are carrying nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, Morales who heads the Volunteers for Popular Democracy said, "I don't see any reason we should not send a diplomatic note to the U.S. government to formally inform them of the implementation of the provision and to ask them to respect it."

"I don't see any reason we should differ in asserting in our national sovereignty especially if we have the legal basis," Morales added. Morales also urged all superpowers, particularly the U.S. and the Soviet Union to voluntarily withdraw their military bases in the Asia-Pacific region.

At this point, Enrile supported Morales' proposal and said the U.S. bases should be dismantled in the southeast region. Enrile said this would be more a dream or a wish than a reality. "Because the reality is both the Americans and the Soviets are in the Southeast Asian region to stay."

Calling for an immediate declaration of Asia-Pacific region as nuclear free zone, Morales urged the Soviet and the American Governments to drop their maintenance of their military bases agreement, if the bases are used for storing nuclear weapons.

Morales said he would work for the adoption of a non-aligned foreign policy if elected to the Senate. "We should adopt a foreign policy which will make our country independent from the United States' dictation and influence."

Meanwhile, Herrera urged an extension for 50 years of U.S. military bases here if Washington took over the Philippines' foreign debt of almost 28 billion. Herrera, one of President Aquino's 24 senatorial candidates in the May 11 election, told the open forum: "As far as I am concerned we can extend the (bases) agreement for 50 years but then (let) the U.S. assume our indebtedness."

Herrera, secretary-general of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, did not specify whether the United States should pay off the country's total foreign debt, though opposition candidates have said this might be an answer to its economic ills.

The Philippine economy grew last year by a mere 0.1 percent after contracting for two years.

The Philippines has two of the U.S. principal overseas military facilities -- Subic Naval Base and Clark Air Base north of Manila. A treaty securing their presence and regulating their use expires in 1991, and talks on their future are due early next year. Senior U.S. officials in Manila have said privately that Washington would strongly resist any attempt to link the Philippines' debt problem with the bases.

PHILIPPINES REQUEST RENEGOTIATION OF FOREIGN DEBT

HK151031 Hong Kong AFP in English 1023 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Manila, April 15 (AFP) — The Philippines is to request a re-negotiation in the repayment terms of 13 billion dollars of its foreign debt following reports of preferential treatment for Argentina, Finance Secretary Jaime Ongpin said here Wednesday.

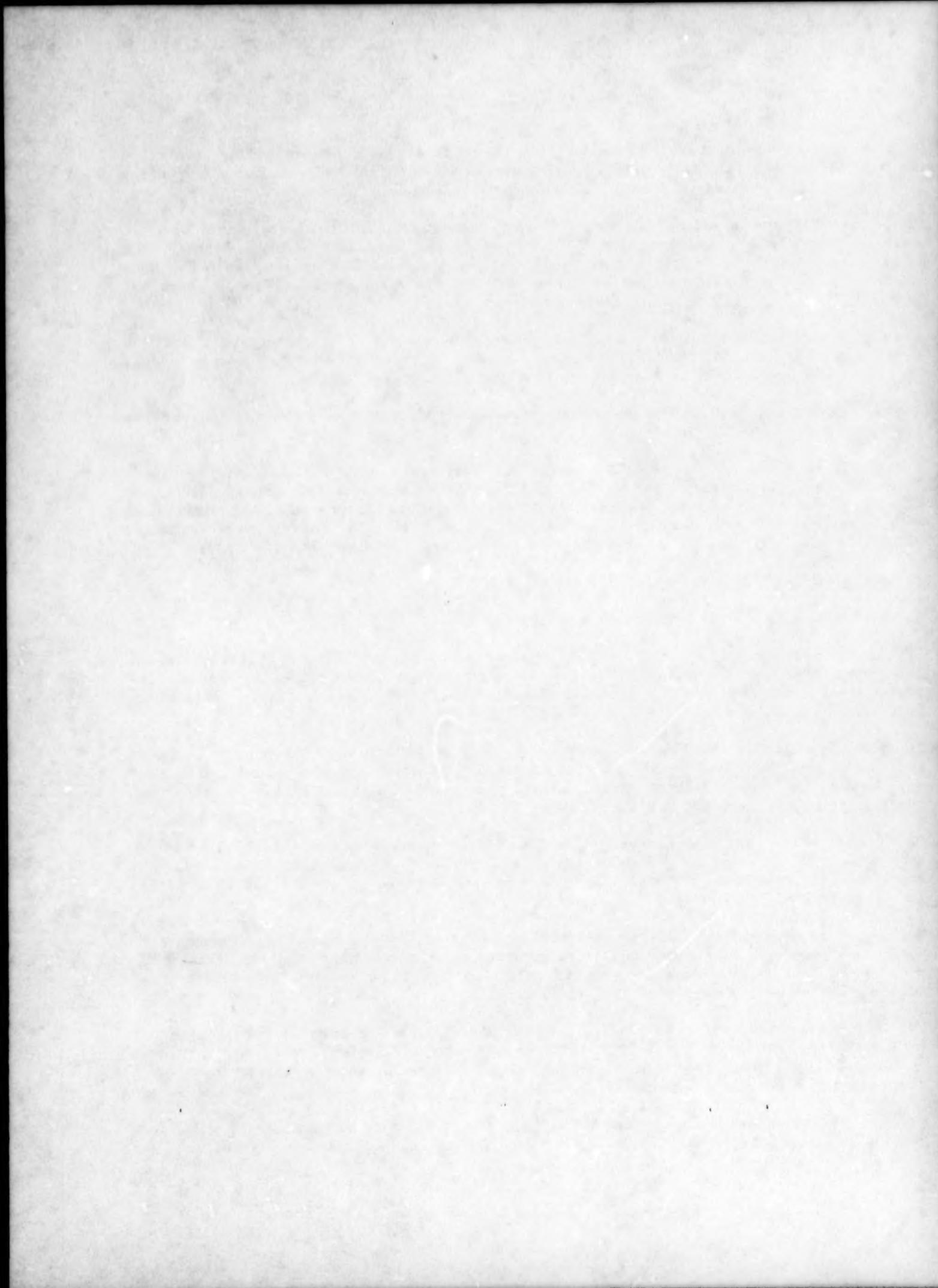
In recently-concluded negotiations with an advisory board representing more than 400 of the Philippines' creditor banks, the Philippine panel asked for a rate of 13/16 over the London interbank offered rate (LIBOR), as received by Mexico in its debt restructuring, but only got 7/8 over LIBOR.

Mr. Ongpin said the board referred to the 13/16 rate afforded to Mexico as an aberration which would not happen again but since then Argentina had reportedly received a similar rate. "The Philippines does not see why it should not be entitled to the same rate," he added.

Mr. Ongpin said Argentina had not released the terms of its restructuring agreement but Manila had obtained data from unofficial reports. The change in rate would save the country 5.1 million dollars a year in debt repayment, he said. The Philippines' foreign debt currently stands at 28 billion dollars.

The finance secretary said the Philippine panel would decide what other changes to ask for after they had been the full details of the agreement with Argentina, but added that he did not think they would seek a change in the present maturity rate of a seven-and-a-half year grace period.

He also said the reopening would not affect the plan for conversion of debt into Philippine Investment Notes [PIN] as agreed upon in the talks concluded last March.



**END OF
FICHE
DATE FILMED**

20 APRIL 1987

